5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

Chapter 6: Production

SALT

The principal native product of Aden is salt, made from sea-water by solar evaporation in a series of pans acres in extent. The export in 1947 amounted to 320,770 tons.

This industry is in the hands of four manufacturers, one Italian, now under the management of the Custodian of Enemy Property, the other three Indian. The year 1947 showed a considerable improvement in business as compared with the previous two years. This was due to improved shipping which enabled more salt to be marketed in India. The tonnage produced during the last five years is given below:

Year	*Quantity of salt produced in tons*
1943	199,236
1944	205,308
1945	139,945
1946	113,042
1947	194,549

FISHERIES

The present primitive fishing industry employs numerous canoes and a few small dhows propelled by oars and sails. Nets are small as only hand-braided netting is available, capital is limited and the life of the twine is short because no preservatives are used. Only single-hook lines are employed. No accurate estimate of the annual catch has been made, but Dr. Bertram in his 1944 report reckoned it at between 25,000 and 50,000 tons. Much of this is exported, in a dried or salted condition, to India, Africa and Ceylon, but there is a considerable local consumption inland. Most observers agree that this figure could be greatly exceeded without affecting the stock of fish. The technical difficulties in so doing are considerable but not insuperable. They include lack of harbours, lack of fresh water, the political situation and the distance to markets.

The most extensive fishery is for sardines of the general Sardinella and Dussumreria types which abound on the Eastern Aden Protectorate coast during the winter months. These are taken in cast-nets and beach seins and are sun-dried for fertiliser and camel fodder. The sardine shoals are followed by Kingfish (*Scomberomerus*), which are caught in large quantites and exported, mostly wet-salted as "malch". Various species of tunny are also caught. Sharks are exported salted and sun-dried, the carcases to Africa and the fins to China. The town of Qu'sair specialises in this fishery and other communities pursue it seasonally. An anchovy (*Stolephorus indicus*) abounds on the Western Aden Protectorate coast in winter and is exported sun-dried in some quantity. Other

5:Gt. Brit.; Colonial Office G-2 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

PART III

Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate

THE Colony of Aden is situated in latitude 12° 47′ N. and longitude 45° 10′ E., about 100 miles east of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb on the southern coast of Arabia. It comprises :

(*a*) The Peninsula on which are situated the main town known as Crater, the modern harbour suburb known as Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area leased by the Township Authority to the Air Ministry for Royal Air Force and military purposes, and known collectively as Steamer Point but more particularly by the name of the spurs of Jebel Shamsan, on which buildings have been constructed, and lastly the Dhow Harbour and village of Maala.

(*b*) The isthmus known as Khormaksar.

(*c*) An area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden Peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad, Buraikha and Fukum (the last two on the Little Aden Peninsula) are situated in this area.

(*d*) The island of Perim.

The Aden Peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation ; Jebel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet high, and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies to the westward and north-west of the Peninsula. Dwelling-houses and shops are constructed on the ridges of the mountain and in the valley between them where the ground is normally level. Crater, the main and original town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour, and lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the Peninsula.

The isthmus is a flat, sandy plain on which have been laid out the aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Aden Protectorate Levy Lines, the Singapore Lines and the golf course. It is only 1,320 yards wide at its narrowest point near the Peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit-garden belonging to the Township Authority. There are also privately owned date-palms there.

Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony.

Salt is manufactured in large quantities on the flat shores of the bay, by the process of solar evaporation.

Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, is bare, rocky

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

of Aden as a bunkering port for supplies of coal and oil ensures frequent shipping opportunities. The salient features of the import trade are repeated in the export figures, as the bulk of imports are re-exported. The principal business is in skins, hides, coffee, cotton piece-goods, cotton yarns, dates, grain, pulse and flour, sugar, tea, spices, oils, tobacco, gum, shells and salt.

The entrepôt trade is in the hands of large merchants, European, Indian and Arab.

Chapter 6: Production

SALT

The principal native product of Aden is salt, made from sea-water by solar evaporation in a series of pans 3,682 acres in extent. The export in 1948 amounted to 261,361 tons.

This industry is in the hands of four manufacturers, one Italian, under the management of the Custodian of Enemy Property, and three Indian. The year 1948 showed a considerable improvement in production as compared with the previous two years. The tonnage produced during the last five years is given below:

Year	*Quantity of salt produced in tons*
1944	205,308
1945	139,945
1946	113,042
1947	194,549
1948	271,108

FISHERIES

The coast of the Colony proper extends for approximately 16 sea miles as the crow flies, but is much indented. The bottom shelves steadily to around 50 fathoms 10 miles offshore, beyond which it falls sharply to over 100 fathoms.

In general the fishing is not to be compared with that of the Eastern Aden Protectorate. During the South-West Monsoon, however, an easterly migration of shoals of large pelagic fish occurs and, while these are in the vicinity, heavy landings may take place. During the summer of 1948 this fishery was well below average. For the remainder of the year, migratory fish occur spasmodically and the location of shoals calls for skill and experience.

Bottom fish are few and small except on certain rocky patches where handlines and basket traps achieve good results.

There are approximately 1,300 fishermen whose homes are in the Colony. Many of them migrate with the fish shoals along the Protectorate coast and, when fish are abundant at Aden, Protectorate fishermen come to fish in the Colony.

6:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

PART III

Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate

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504

(*a*) The Peninsula on which are situated the main town known as Crater, the modern harbour suburb known as Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area leased by the Township Authority to the Air Ministry for Royal Air Force and military purposes, and known collectively as Steamer Point but more particularly by the name of the spurs of Jebel Shamsan, on which buildings have been constructed, and lastly the Dhow Harbour and village of Maalla.

(*b*) The Isthmus known as Khormaksar.

(*c*) An area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden Peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad, Buraikha and Fukum (the last two on the Little Aden Peninsula) are situated in this area.

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361 Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet high, and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies to the westward and north-west of the Peninsula. Dwelling-houses and shops are constructed on the ridges of the mountain and in the valley between them where the ground is normally level. Crater, the main and original town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour, and lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the Peninsula.

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241 aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Aden Protectorate Levy Lines, the Singapore Lines and the golf course. It is only 1,320 yards wide at its narrowest point near the Peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit-garden belonging to the Township Authority. There are also privately owned date-palms there.

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Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony.

317 Salt is manufactured in large quantities on the flat shores of the bay, by the process of solar evaporation.

133 Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, is bare, rocky and rather flat in appearance ; its highest point, about a mile northward of its southern extremity, is 214 feet high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry water-courses and covered with coarse grass and stunted
504 shrubs, the sub-soil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim Harbour

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1

The cleaning, sorting and packing for re-export of hides, skins, coffee, incense and gum are occupations of considerable importance. Several big merchants as well as small exporters are engaged in these trades. No figures available, but it is estimated that approximately 2,000 men and women are engaged as casual labour. Apart from some limited employment in domestic service, this is the only work in which women are employed in Aden. 463

There is no agriculture in the Colony, and the only local product is salt obtained from the sea by solar evaporation. This industry employs some 750 regular and 550 casual workers. 241 317

There is no heavy industry in Aden apart from some ship repairing (including floating docks). The light industries are confined to finishing processes using imported materials. The most important of these light industries are the production of aluminium, hollow-ware, soap, calico printing, and a little dyeing and weaving of cotton fabric, the manufacture of furniture and cigarettes. Machinery is used in the aluminium and cigarette factories, and to some extent in furniture making. The textile trade is primitive in the extreme and is entirely hand work. The weaving is done in the home, using primitive looms with hand-thrown shuttles. 438 463 286

Large numbers are engaged in retail trade, the distributive, catering and transport industries, and in small workshops or in independent crafts. Figures more recent than those of the 1946 census are not available. An unusually high proportion of persons are engaged in catering, particularly in small eating houses, coffee shops and in hawking food, tea, coffee and even iced drinking water. This is explained by the large number of immigrant male workers (whose families remain at home) and by the local custom of sending out for cooked food. There are also many domestic servants, particularly small boys employed in homes where purdah prevents the women from marketing. 463 [265]

There is a great deal of casual employment, comparatively few workers have permanent work, unskilled labour is entirely immigrant and dependent to a certain extent on economic conditions in nearby territories. Immigrant workers, whose families remain in their villages, usually return there after about two years. 464

Standards of craftsmanship are low, and the rate of production, quality of tools, and methods of work in general leave much to be desired. Mechanisation is almost unknown and a large labour force is thus employed in such processes as bunkering of coal by hand, and working salt in the pans, as well as, for example, in the building trade where even the wheelbarrow is rarely seen. Commercial firms and the very large number of small locally-owned workshops do not use any proper apprenticeship system. Boys pick up some knowledge as helpers, but are casually employed and may frequently change employment. A general all-round improvement is expected with the opening of the Government Technical College, where night classes for adults 461 [466] 874

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden mm1

Chapter 6: Production

SALT

The principal native product of Aden is salt, made from sea-water by solar evaporation in a series of pans, 3,682 acres in extent.

The industry is in the hands of four manufacturers, one Italian and three Indians. There has been a considerable improvement in production in the last three years as can be seen from the following figures :

Year	*Quantity of salt produced in tons*
1946	113,042
1947	194,549
1948	271,108
1949	303,432
1950	255,865

India bought three-quarters of its overseas requirements of salt from Aden, and Japan also increased its demands.

FISHERIES

The position in the industry is in the main unaltered since the publication of the 1948 report. The Fishery Department began work on a permanent basis during the winter of 1949-50, when the Fishery Officer returned from leave in December and a British skipper for the fishery vessel arrived in Aden in January. During 1950, progress was disappointing, the fishery vessel being handicapped for eight of the twelve months by a broken winch for which the necessary parts could not be obtained, while storage space for fishing gear was not made available until July. A considerable amount of work remains to be done ashore and on board the fishery vessel before the department can be regarded as adequately equipped for its duties.

The recording of the amount of fish handled by the four markets in the Colony was instituted early in the year. This and public opinion have emphasised the fact that the present fishing industry is unable to supply the needs of the population of the Colony except for occasional brief periods. The result has been a varying scarcity and occasional short gluts, the high but fluctuating prices causing hardship for the consumer and insecurity for the producer. How much the position has been due to poor catches and how much to increased population it is as yet impossible to say ; the fact remains that a population of over 100,000 is dependent for its fish on a small fleet of paddling and sailing canoes with a range of a few miles, and that no storage facilities exist except for one small and obsolete cold store, and a number of decrepit ice boxes at the markets.

The Fishery Department is attacking the problem in two ways, by increasing the efficiency of existing equipment and methods and by exploring neighbouring waters with the fishery vessel in search of

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1

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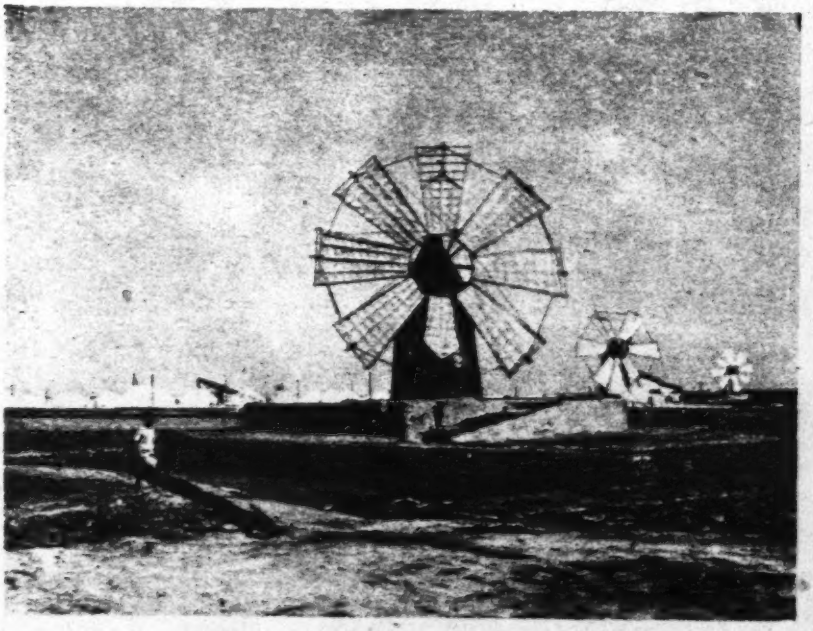

ADEN SALT WORKS

Windmills lift sea water into pans for solar evaporation.

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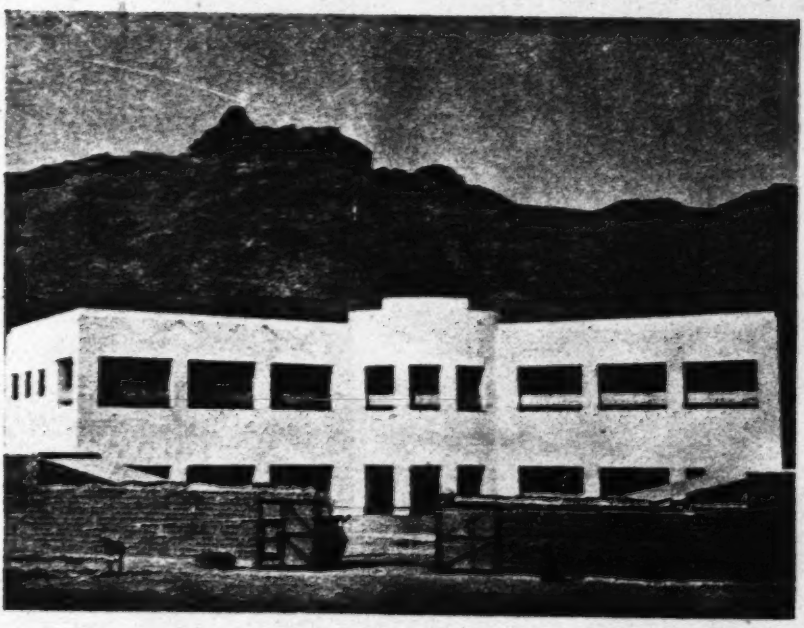

NEW GOVERNMENT GIRLS' SCHOOL, ~~CATER~~

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A 165 1,000 live births in the 4 years 1945-48, and 731 subsequently declined to 162 in 1949 and to 166 in 1950. As in the case of population death rates, the infant mortality statistics A [167] are exaggerated by the inclusion of immigrant deaths.

A 165 Figures for the 5 years 1946-50 indicate that deaths among children under 5 years of age accounted for 34 to 38 per cent of the total deaths. The stillbirth rate varied from 54 to 73 per 1,000 births; the maternal mortality rate, from 4 to 7 per 1,000 live births and stillbirths.

N 165 Few statistical studies have been made in the Aden protectorates. The total death and infant mortality rates are believed to be generally higher than those of the Colony, but in the absence of authentic records, inadequate data are available for measuring the actual health status of the people. Evidence obtained from the interrogation of 76 women, from 15 to 45 years of age, in Western Aden Protectorate in 1939-40[20] suggests an average infant mortality of 245 per 1,000 live births, varying from 80 to over 500 in different localities. Infancy was not accurately defined, however, and any baby breast-fed and unable to walk was classified as an infant. The mortality among children H 165 under 5 years of age was 25 to 100 per cent 146 greater in most areas. Malnutrition and 854 ignorance of the fundamental principles of child care are important factors contributing to the high mortality in infancy and early childhood in both the Colony and the Protectorate.

Social Economy

A 493 The economy of the Colony is based 489 almost entirely upon shipping and trade. Not only is Aden a prominent fueling station for ocean and coastwise vessels, but it derives considerable wealth from the transshipment of goods to and from Yemen and adjacent territories, usually by means of A 439 dhows and camel caravans. The production 317 of salt in evaporation beds along the coast A 441 surrounding Aden harbor is the only export industry. Numerous small plants have been